



**Sacconi Quartet**  
**String Quartet**

*"An exceptional ensemble... a unanimous sense of musical breath and a meticulous attention to detail."* Musical Opinion

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Ben Hancox *violin*

Hannah Dawson *violin*

Robin Ashwell *viola*

Cara Berridge *cello*

Formed in 2001, the four founder members of the Sacconi Quartet continue to enjoy a busy international career, and are Quartet in Association at the Royal College of Music and Quartet in Residence in Folkestone.

Their latest album of world premiere recordings by Roxanna Panufnik was released in May. Releases of recent years include premiere recordings by Jonathan Dove, Graham Fitkin and John McCabe. *In Damascus*, their CD of music by Dove, hit the Classical Top Ten, and was chosen as one of Gramophone Magazine's Recordings of the Year.

Last season saw the quartet make their debut in Russia with pianist Peter Donohoe. They continued their performances of Dove's *In Damascus*, and gave several performances of their inimitable *Beethoven in the Dark*. Firm advocates of new music, the Sacconi recently premiered their latest commission from Graham Fitkin, *Loosening* for saxophone and quartet. Current commissions and premieres include works by Jonathan Dove, Nicola LeFanu and Robin Holloway.

The Sacconi Quartet is Quartet in Residence for the town of Folkestone and its surrounding areas, enabling creative collaborations with local artists and projects, and an embedded outreach programme. The Sacconi Chamber Music Festival in Folkestone is firmly established among the UK's major chamber music festivals.

In March, the quartet released an exclusive film of Jonathan Dove's 'Out of Time' on Amazon with all proceeds going to Hands Up Foundation, a young and innovative charity that delivers aid directly and effectively to Syrians in need. The Quartet is indebted to the Royal Society of Musicians and Ellen Solomon for the use of their instruments.

The Sacconi Quartet celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the 2021-22 season, performing their latest commission from Jonathan Dove, and *Beethoven in the Dark*, their immersive performance of Beethoven's op.131 quartet entirely from memory, in almost complete darkness. *"This stunner from the Sacconi Quartet was all about letting the music speak. Eyes open or closed, it was all you got."* Classic FM

### **November 2021**

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